

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 4-6 and 14-17 are pending in this application, with Claims 4, 14 and 17 being independent.

Claims 4, 14, and 17 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure at least, for example, at page 7, lines 4-16. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 4-6 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,711,677 (Wiegley) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0097323 (Lapstun et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 4, the present invention is directed to an image data recording device that includes, *inter alia*, the features of means for generating a common key, means for transmitting the common key to a data processing device, means for decrypting print image data using a key corresponding to a print ID, and means for recording the decrypted print image data, wherein the print image data is data encrypted in the image data processing device by using the common key received from the image data recording device. With these features, it is possible to achieve high security image data encryption/transmission for each print ID.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features. Wiegley discloses that a session key is encrypted by a computer using a session key transmitted from a printer 10, and the print data is encrypted by using the

session key generated by the computer (see ref no. 110 in Fig. 6A and col. 4, lines 30-31 and 47-55). Lapstun et al., on the other hand, discloses that a public key is used for a digital signature (see paragraphs [0363] to [0369]). However, Applicant submits that neither of those documents either discloses or suggests at least the above-mentioned combination of features. In particular, none of the cited art, even if considered in combination, discloses or suggests that an image data recording device generates a common key and transmits the common key to an image data processing device, and that the image data recording device decrypts print image data that is encrypted in the image data processing device by using the common key received from the image data recording device.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 4 is patentable over the art of record. Independent Claims 14 and 17 recite similar features and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 4.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite additional features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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